30 YEARS OF MAGIC
MEET OUR ANIMAL AMBASSADORS
DIY ANIMAL TRACK STAMPS
Roger Williams Park Zoo offers guests the opportunity to see and learn about animals from all over the world. We focus on animal welfare, conservation, education, and connecting people to wildlife so that they can help us make a difference. One might logically ask what does 5,000 glowing pumpkins have to do with meeting the Zoo’s mission? The answer is simple. The Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular is the Zoo’s largest fundraiser. Many people do not realize our Zoo is a non-profit organization. The revenue that we collect from daily ticket sales throughout the year covers less than 40% of our annual operating budget. In order to raise the money to provide our animals with excellent care, and support conservation and education programs, your Zoo puts on numerous fundraising events each year to help cover expenses. These events also attract a diverse group of people that might not otherwise visit the Zoo. This gives us the opportunity to showcase our Zoo and the great work we do, while giving visitors a memory that will last a lifetime. So remember, when you come to the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular this year, bring a friend or two and know that you are not only going to have a magical time visiting this amazing spectacle, but that you are supporting a great cause.

I look forward to seeing you at the Zoo.

By Jeremy Goodman, DVM
Executive Director, RWP Zoo and RI Zoological Society

Still pulling that old Membership Card out of your wallet?

Follow these steps and download your eMembership card today!

• Go to App Store or Play Store and download the eMembership Card app
• Under institutions, select Roger Williams Park Zoo
• Click “Find My Membership Cards”
• Enter your last name and phone number
• Start using your card!

Holiday gift memberships

It is never too early to think about the holiday season. Provide joy all year long to someone you love by giving them a membership to Roger Williams Park Zoo where it is Always an Adventure!
Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular is back, with new theme night events to enhance the experience for fairy tale fans, wizarding wannabes, and superhero admirers. All events run 6:00 – 8:00 pm, and are included in the price of your Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular ticket. Guests are encouraged to dress as their favorite characters, and join in the fun.

For tickets and information, go to rwpzoo.org/jols.

FAIRY TALE THEME NIGHTS
OCTOBER 10 & 11

Meet and take photos with beloved fairy tale characters. Grab a “poison apple” and then as the sun sets, find your favorite fairy tale characters intricately carved on the pumpkins on the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular trail.

WIZARD THEME NIGHTS
OCTOBER 17 & 18

Wizards and witches; get your wands, mount your brooms, and fly on over to meet some of the characters from the wizarding world. Try a butter brew, then travel the pumpkin trail, and identify characters and scenes from the wizarding world. Free a house elf by donating new clean socks to Project Undercover to provide necessities for underserved children in Rhode Island.

SUPERHERO THEME NIGHTS
OCTOBER 24 & 25

You never know who might show up at the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular. Comic book fans might meet favorites from Marvel and DC comics. Take a photo, and find out how they all save the world. As our heroes go back out to fight evil, find them carved on pumpkins on the Jack-o-Lantern Spectacular trail.
From a grand hemlock tree decorated with illuminated pumpkins to a lengthy trail with more than 5,000 intricately carved pumpkins depicting scenes from history, literature, the movies and real life, the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular has been delighting audiences for thirty years.

John Reckner of Oxford, MA decorates a large hemlock tree in his neighborhood with intricately carved illuminated pumpkins. The reaction is overwhelming.

1988

1989-1990

1991

1992-1999

Too large for just one hemlock tree, Reckner decorates more than 300 pumpkins behind the Woodward Middle School in Oxford, MA.

Reckner moves the show to Carbuncle Park in Oxford, MA. The feature that year was a pumpkin depicting a scene from Rogers & Hammerstein's Show Boat with accompanying songs from the musical.

Now running ten nights long, the show grows too big for Carbuncle Park by 1999. In 1999, the Library of Congress named what was then called Oxford's Great Jack-O-Lantern Fest, "A Local Legacy."
Reckner and his growing team move the Jack-O-Lantern Fest to Salem, MA — the home of all things Halloween. But on October 31, six inches of snow fell, and attendance for the show was low.

The head of the Providence Tourism Council, Jim Wood, sees the show in Salem, MA, and suggests Reckner chat with the staff at Roger Williams Park Zoo. Following the country’s shock after the 9/11 attacks, the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular dedicates much of the show its first year in the Zoo to the tragedy. The show stays at the Zoo for three more years.

Reckner and team decide to experiment with other locations and take the show to Rockingham Park in Salem, NH in 2005; Bayside Expo Center in Boston, MA in 2006; and to McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket, RI for two years, 2007 - 2008.

The staff at Passion for Pumpkins, the artists, and carvers of the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular decide the Zoo is the best venue possible for the ever-growing show! Now a tradition in New England, the show attracts 115,000 – 140,000 visitors from all over the country. In 2013, Passion for Pumpkins expands the show to Louisville, KY; and in 2018, a new Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular will open at the Minnesota Zoo.
THANKS TO YOU

MORE THAN $20,000 WAS RAISED THIS SUMMER TO HELP SAVE THE NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL RABBIT

Unlike the invasive Eastern cottontail that you see in your own backyard, these vulnerable New England cottontails struggle to adapt as the young forest areas they call home are increasingly developed. Their habitat has declined by 80% in recent years!

The money raised from donors just like you helped with the care of these animals before their release into the wild. By breeding this threatened species at the Zoo, our conservation director and his team began the process of safely boosting the cottontail’s population.

All 77 animals received a tag and microchip, and spent a month in a predator-free area in Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge learning to be “adults” before their release into the wild. Once matured, the rabbits will be relocated into wild populations in New Hampshire, Maine and Patience Island.

THANK YOU for your support on this important project.

ARE YOU A “FACE” OF THE RAINFOREST

FOR INFORMATION EMAIL BROOKE AT BFAIRMAN@RWPOZOO.ORG

SUPPORT CONSERVATION OF THE RAINFOREST BY ADDING YOUR NAME OR A LOVED ONE’S NAME TO THE FACES OF THE RAINFOREST EXHIBIT.
EDUCATION ANIMAL AMBASSADORS
CREATING RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATURE AND ITS WILDLIFE

Roger Williams Park Zoo is the ultimate living classroom. With more than 100 species of animals on exhibit, visitors have the ability to see animals from all over the globe. While most of our animals are visible to the public, did you know we have another collection of education animal ambassadors located behind the scenes? These tenacious critters are housed off-exhibit. Some of the animals join members of the education department to appear at schools and community gatherings, allowing us the opportunity to bring the Zoo to you off-grounds!

Did You Know?
As of this year, there are more than 1,600 threatened species of plants and animals in North America alone! Of that number, more than 500 are either critically endangered or endangered. (IUCN Red List)

All of the Zoo’s animal ambassadors are comfortable around people and trained by our expert staff to showcase their unique natural behaviors. This training covers a host of responsibilities including - most importantly - the health and safety of our animals, handlers, and the public. Each animal ambassador has its own distinct needs, and we take into account the personality and welfare of every animal when introducing them into our wild encounter program. Our current animal collection includes a bearded dragon, ferret, red-tailed hawk, skunk, variety of reptiles, an opossum, insects, and more!

These personal experiences with our amazing animals can be seen on Zoo grounds during the warmer months and throughout the year as a part of our many educational programs and Zoo-wide special events. Our furry, scaly, and feathery friends are representatives for their counterparts in the wild and the environments in which they live. It is so important to us that each visitor that walks through our doors is able to create a relationship with wildlife – and up-close encounters with our animal ambassadors further deepen that connection. Through these interactive presentations, we are able to transport you to the depths of the Amazon rainforest when meeting a tropical rainbow boa, or fly you to the middle of the Great Basin desert during armadillo encounters.

Animal ambassador encounters carry a message of compassion for all living things and provide a greater understanding of our wonder-filled planet. They showcase the importance of global conservation and help you develop an emotional tie to wildlife while fostering an appreciation for the natural world. Bringing people closer to animals is just one way we can help others gain an appreciation for wildlife and wild places.

Fun Fact
Several of our education animal ambassadors were brought to the Zoo by wildlife rehabilitators. Because of serious injuries, animals like Reba, our red-tailed hawk, are unable to be released back into the wild and now call the Zoo home.
Roger Williams Park Zoo is open every day except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Roger Williams Park Zoo will close early on: Saturday, August 25, 2018 for Brew at the Zoo. For complete information on closings, please visit rwpzoo.org; or follow us on Facebook.

### Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular
**Celebrate 30 years of Halloween magic**

**October 4 – November 4**
Enjoy more than 5,000 intricately carved pumpkins, and new this year, experience special theme night activities included in the price of your Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular ticket. Theme nights are 6:00 - 8:00 pm. For tickets and information visit rwpzoo.org/jols.

- **Fairy Tale Nights** - Wednesday, October 10 and Thursday, October 11
- **Wizarding Nights** - Wednesday, October 17 and Thursday, October 18
- **Super Hero Nights** - Wednesday, October 24 and Thursday, October 25

### Spooky Zoo
**Saturday, October 27 and Sunday, October 28**
Join us at Spooky Zoo for daytime outdoor autumn activities for the whole family! Come trick-or-treat (while supplies last) beginning at 10:00 am. Activities are free with Zoo admission and children ages 12 and under dressed in costume get in for half price. All activities are weather permitting.

* Trick or Treat bags provided by National Grid

### Sensory-Friendly Mornings in Hasbro’s Our Big Backyard
**Tuesday, November 6**
9:00 - 10:00 am
Join us for an hour of nature play in Hasbro’s Our Big Backyard before the Zoo opens designed for families who have a child with sensory sensitivities.

Pricing: Regular Zoo admission ($12.95/child; $15.95/senior; $17.95/adult); Free for RWPZoo members. Rise & Play is free for Roger Williams Park Zoo members, but you must log into your account and pre-register!

### Rock-A-Baby Concert -
**October 27, Halloween Hop**
*two shows: 10:30 am & noon*
$7 per participant (ages 2 & older)
Pre-registration is required.

Rock-A-Baby band is back at the Zoo. The band’s music, perfect for some of the Zoo’s youngest guests, features “Rhythm, Melody, and Harmony.” These three silly and entertaining puppets, shake, dance, and sing with the audience while playing games and exploring fun musical concepts.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This program does not include Zoo admission. Guests must purchase Zoo tickets at the Zoo entrance on the day of the concert. If you are a member, you may use your membership to enter the Zoo. Members will pay only the program fee.

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### CAROUSEL VILLAGE
For information on Carousel Village go to rwpzoo.org.

### Ride the Carousel at Roger Williams Park Carousel Village
**Post Labor Day - Oct. 31**
Daily Noon – 4:00 pm
**November 1 - December 31**
Weekends Noon – 4:00 pm

**Please Note:** School Holidays & Vacation Weeks, 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

### Visit with Santa
**November 23 - 25, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**
$5 per child

Bring your camera! Enjoy a ride on the historic Carousel. Play in the fully accessible outdoor Hasbro Boundless Playground, open daily all year.
**WILD TRIVIA**

**1.** How many different reptile species are there in the world?
   A. 7,000  
   B. 8,200  
   C. 9,500  
   D. 20,000

**2.** What is the most populous mammal on earth (not including humans)?
   A. Domestic cats  
   B. Domestic dogs  
   C. Pigs  
   D. Cows

**3.** Rainforests cover less than what percentage of the Earth's surface?
   A. 2  
   B. 5  
   C. 7  
   D. 9

Answers located on bottom of page.

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**DIY ANIMAL TRACK STAMPS**

Create your very own critter trails with this fun and interactive craft project, perfect for your animal-loving little one! Construct a story with these fast and simple animal track stamps that can be used again and again.

**What you need:**
- Cardboard pieces  
- Sponges  
- Scissors*  
- Hot glue gun*  
- Ink  
- Cardstock

**Follow these easy steps:**
1. Pick several different types of animal footprints you want to make.
2. Cut pieces of cardboard – we suggest 4”x4” or larger.
3. Cut the shapes of each footprint from the sponges.
4. Glue each sponge footprint onto the cardboard and let dry.
5. Now dunk your sponge into the ink, and dab away to create your own trail tracks all over the cardstock.

**Try this:**
- Try making a set of tracks that tell a story. Is one animal following another, are they running away or walking together? Have fun and see what creative ideas you can come up with!
- How many animal tracks can you identify? Craft a matching game and see if you can match each footprint with the name of the animal it belongs to.

*For scissors and hot glue we recommend adult supervision.

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**GUESS ZOO?**

These photos show close-up views of Roger Williams Park Zoo animals. Can you identify what’s in each picture?

Answers located on bottom of page.

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*Credit: www.greenkidcrafts.com*
ALEX AND ANI OFFERS BEAUTIFUL NEW BRACELET

Support the Zoo with the purchase of the Alex and Ani Monarch Butterfly Charm Bangle. Embodying a powerful representation of life, the monarch stands for hope and change. Slow down to appreciate what the Earth has to offer and you will experience a newfound connection to nature. Wonder surrounds you.

A portion of the proceeds from each purchase supports the Zoo’s science and environmental education programs, serving more than 30,000 children from pre-school through high school.

PARTY WITH ANIMALS!
AT ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO AND CAROUSEL VILLAGE

PLEASE FOLLOW US ONLINE AND SHARE YOUR PHOTOS AND STORIES!

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